complex at Hyderabad, Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai and Trivendrum; a floriculture marketing centre at Netherlands, and another hi-tech perishable centre is being set up at Mumbai airport. NCDC provides financial assistance to fruit and vegetable co-operative societies of horticulture growers for development of marketing, purchase of transport vehicles, construction of godowns / sheds for storage of horticulture produce, etc. Under All India Coordinated Research Project on Post Harvest Technology, implemented by ICAR, location specific research is undertaken to strengthen post harvest technology and storage activities. A number of technologies related to storage, handling, transport, packaging and value addition have been developed by R&D organizations to reduce losses and increase shelf life of the produce and products.

Besides the above, Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its plan scheme for Development of Infrastructure Facilities provides financial assistance for establishment of cold storages for non-horticultural produce; where the cold storage is an integral part of the processing unit or of the common facilities in food park; special type of cold storage with Controlled Atmosphere / Modified Atmosphere facility.

Misappropriation of Foodgrains for NP-NSPE

1381. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of foodgrains supplied under the National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education Programme has been misappropriated by the transporters and distributing agencies;

(b) if so, the details of such cases that came to the notice of Government in this regard; and

(c) the action taken / being taken by Government against those responsible for such misappropriation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) According to the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India for the period ending March, 2000 on the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, during 1995—98, 1.40 lakh quintals of foodgrains were misappropriated by the transporters and distributing agencies in the five States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) The Government of Arunachal Pradesh has stated that the transportation agencies designated for transportation of foodgrains did not deliver the foodgrains after lifting due to non-payment of transportation charges in time. However, necessary steps were subsequently taken to distribute the foodgrains in the areas meant for the beneficiaries.

The Government of Maharasthra have informed the FIRs have been lodged against the defaulting contractors and in some cases, after completion of the investigation, cases have been filed in the respective courts.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh has informed that the cases relating to misappropriation has been referred to the State Vigilance Department for inquiry.

Ther Government of Assam & Nagaland have informed that they are investigating the matter.

Transfer of Management of Government Schools to Private Agencies

1382. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Administration has decided to handover Management of Government schools in NCT, whose results are poor, to private agencies / public schools;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the number of such schools proposed to be handed over to private agencies / public schools;

(d) whether such a move would demoralise Government schools, their teachers and the student Community;

(e) whether Government would make efforts to raise the level of education in such schools, after identifying them; and

(f) whether Government would also take steps in this direction, after holding discussion with the Government of NCT of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) No Sir.